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DR. JACOB GRIFFEL

SEPTEMBER 17 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 13), 1951.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MCCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1800]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 1800) for the relief of Dr. Jacob Griffel, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Dr. Jacob Griffel. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 50-year-old native of Poland and citizen of Israel, who last entered the United States as a visitor on January 5, 1949. Since his arrival here he has assisted and advised the National Council of Young Israel and has been of great service to that organization in its philanthropic work in the field of rescue and rehabilitation.

A letter dated August 7, 1951, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

AUGUST 7, 1951.

Hon. PAT MCCARRAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 1800) for the relief of Dr. Jacob Griffel, an alien.

The bill would provide that Dr. Jacob Griffel shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of

its enactment upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Doctor Griffel is a citizen of Israel and a native of Poland, having been born in Krakow, Poland, on October 23, 1900. He entered the United States at the port of New York, on January 5, 1949, when he was admitted as a temporary visitor for 1 month under section 3 (2) of the Immigration Act of 1924. He has been granted several extensions of his temporary stay, the last of which expired on June 30, 1950. The alien stated that his purpose in coming to this country was to attend a conference for 6 weeks.

Dr. Griffel stated that since April 1949, he has resided with Mr. and Mrs. Jacob A. Samuel, New York, N. Y., and that he is unemployed but that he has the use of an office at the National Council of Young Israel in New York City. He further stated that his parents are deceased, that he is a widower, and that he has no children. He claims that he receives no salary for his work, which has been described as attempting to rescue refugee children from countries behind the iron curtain.

The quota for Poland, to which the alien is chargeable, is over-subscribed and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. The record, however, presents no facts which would justify the enactment of special legislation granting him a preference over the many other aliens in Poland and other foreign countries who are awaiting an opportunity to come to this country for permanent residence. To enact this bill might encourage others, in whose cases immigration visas are not readily obtainable, to enter this country as visitors and thereafter attempt to legalize their status in similar manner.

Accordingly, the Department of Justice is unable to recommend enactment of the bill.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

Senator Herbert H. Lehman, the author of the bill, has submitted a number of letters and documents in connection with the case, among which are the following:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG ISRAEL,
New York 11, N. Y., July 28, 1950.

Hon. HERBERT H. LEHMAN,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SENATOR: Rabbi Samuel Berliant, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, has forwarded to me your kind letter of July 12, with the request to answer the questions concerning Dr. Jacob Griffel. A part of the information to follow I have already given you in my letter of July 7. If I repeat same now, I do it in order to have the individual questions answered systematically.

As to item No. 1: "The circumstances surrounding the entry of Dr. Griffel"

Dr. Griffel spent some time in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey, during the years 1943 and 1944. During that period, Dr. Griffel enjoyed the fullest confidence and cooperation of Ambassador Lawrence Steinhardt. The purpose of his stay in Turkey was to do what he could for the Non-Partisan Rescue Committee of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, and also representing Dr. Isaac Herzog, Chief Rabbi of Israel, who, as you know, was engaged in similar work.

Between the latter part of 1944 and the end of 1948, for and on behalf of the same agencies, Dr. Griffel at a sacrifice to himself and his family and under circumstances which would be almost unbearable to the average individual, went to many lands in Europe, to wit: Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Israel, in giving of his time, effort, energy, and money to save Jewish souls, physically and spiritually.

Organizations like the National Council of Young Israel and rabbinical organizations, knowing of Dr. Griffel's work in Europe, his abilities, his education, his accomplishments and of the great value and assistance he could give to the Jews in this country, and, particularly, of this great city, urged Dr. Griffel to come to America and Dr. Griffel did arrive in this country on January 5, 1949, on a visitor's permit No. V88378.

As to item No. 2: "The present activities of Dr. Griffel"

Since Dr. Griffel's arrival in this country, he has assisted and advised the National Council of Young Israel and has been of great service to that organization in its philanthropic work in the field of rescue and rehabilitation. It is a matter of public record that the National Council of Young Israel has done monumental work in an effort to inculcate religious training and give other aid to the many thousands of children who were scheduled to arrive in Israel from North Africa.

Dr. Griffel's activities since his arrival here have not been and are not limited to the aid and help given for rescue work for and on behalf of the National Council of Young Israel. He has been of great service to other organizations, including such organizations as have been under the leadership of the great renowned rabbi known as the Lubavitcher Rabbi, and since his decease under the leadership of Rabbi Mendel Schneerson, the son-in-law of that great spiritual leader.

Further, he has and still is helping many other rabbis and leaders in this country and cooperating with them in giving spiritual and physical aid to persons still in Europe and north Africa and children in Israel.

As to item No. 3: "The present earnings of Dr. Griffel or whether he is dependent on some other person for support"

Dr. Griffel is, thank God, not dependent on any person or organization for a living. Fortunately, when Dr. Griffel arrived in this country, he had considerable means of his own. He still has a substantial part of that money to his credit and the sum which is still to his credit will enable Dr. Griffel to take care of himself and his needs for a considerable time to come.

As to item No. 4: "Whether or not Dr. Griffel is engaged in any activities, political or otherwise, injurious to the American public interest."

The answer there is emphatically "No." The many letters you have in your file from various prominent persons in this country who have written to you on behalf of Dr. Griffel and other documentary proof should be sufficient to convince you and the United States that Dr. Griffel is not and never will be engaged in any activities injurious to the public interest.

As to item No. 5: "Whether Dr. Griffel has been convicted of an offense under any Federal or State law"

The answer to that question is the same as the answer to item No. 4.

I should like to convey to you my most sincere wishes for your kind letter of July 14 in which you assure us that you will give the case of Dr. Griffel your most sympathetic attention.

I remain,

Respectfully yours,

ELIJAH STEIN,
National President.

JERUSALEM, *August 3, 1947.*

To Whomever It May Concern:

This is to introduce the bearer, Mr. Jacob Grifel of Jerusalem. He is delegated by me to act in the interest, spiritual as well as material, of Jewish refugees in Europe and also in connection with the religious education of their children.

Any assistance rendered by the authorities to this most worthy, deeply religious man, of the noblest character, with the view of facilitating him in the accomplishment of his sacred mission will be greatly appreciated by me.

[SEAL]

ISAAC HERZOG,
Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land.

HEADQUARTERS AFRICA-MIDDLE EAST THEATER,
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL,
June 21, 1945.

Memorandum to: The Commanding General, SHAEF.

The bearer of this letter, Mr. Jacob Griffel, is on a mission from Palestine to your theater. Mr. Griffel represents the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America and the Jewish agency in Palestine, and is going to consult with refugee authorities in Switzerland on measures to alleviate the distress of Jewish refugees in concentration camps. For the last 2 years Mr. Griffel has been engaged in relief work

in Turkey. While there, he had the full cooperation of the American diplomatic representatives in that country and of the War Refugee Board in Washington.

It would be very much appreicated should your headquarters assist Mr. Griffel in the accomplishment of his mission.

B. F. GILES,
Major General, United States Army, Commanding.

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA,
New York, N. Y., July 6, 1950.

Hon. HERBERT H. LEHMAN,
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR LEHMAN: May I take the privilege of writing to you in behalf of Dr. Jacon Griffel, of Jerusalem, and to earnestly request you to introduce the necessary legislation, so that his stay in this country may be extended and made permanent.

Dr. Griffel has won the admiration and esteem of the many colleagues of our Rabbinical Council by his unselfish devotion to the task of rescue and rehabilitation of children who were rendered homeless and in many cases orphaned by the holocaust of Nazi tyranny. In addition, he has done noble and outstanding work in behalf of underprivileged children from north African countries, and he came to America at the specific request and authorization of the Chief Rabbi of Israel, Dr. Isaac Halvey Herzog.

Dr. Griffel has been engaged in advising our rabbis on the spiritual needs and religious education of immigrant children in the various camps and institutions in Israel. We have found his words and indeed his whole personality a source of great inspiration, and we would like to see him continue in his holy work in our midst.

We, therefore, turn to you for assistance, and urge you to take the necessary steps to assure the continued presence of Dr. Griffel in this country. We feel certain that the other Members of the Congress will also support this very worthy gesture of friendship of a self-sacrificing humanitarian.

Sincerely yours,

Rabbi SAMUEL BERLIANT,
President.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 1800) should be enacted.

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